

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4672

S E C R E T USNATO 6276

NODIS

FOR COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MPOL NATO

SUBJECT: US RESPONSE TO THE DEFENSE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE

1. WHILE I RECOGNIZE THAT IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES HAVE DELAYED APPROVAL OF THE US RESPONSE TO NATOS DEFENSE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE, WE HAVE ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT TO FILE OUR REPLY OR THE ALLIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REVIEW IT BEFORE THE DECEMBER DPC MINISTERIAL MEETNG, WHERE MINISTERS WILL BE ASKED TO APPROVE COUNTRIES FORCE COMMITMENTS FOR 1976 AND FORCE PLANS FOR 1976-1980. OUR FAILURE TO MEET THE DEADLINE WILL BE CONSTRUED, DESPITE OUR CONTRARY ASSERTIONS, AS AN EARNEST OF LACK OF INTEREST IN THE MULTILATERAL FORCE PLANNING PROCESS. WE HAVE ATTACHED MUCH PAST IMPORTANCE TO THIS PROCESS BECAUSE IT PROVIDES AN INVALUABLE LEVER IN MAINTAINING ALLIED FORCE LEVELS AND EFFECTIVENESS.

2. I WAS SHARPLY REPROACHED ABOUT THIS TODAY AT THE PERMREPS LUNCH.

3. TO AVOID SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE CAREFULLY DESIGNED INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE HERE I HOPE YOU MAY USE YOUR INFLUENCE IN URGING APPROVAL THIS WEEK OF THE US REPLY TO THE DPQ. BRUCE

SECRET

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